

Discovery School

Toileting Policy

It is expected that children three years and older be able to toilet independently, and that 2 and 2 ½ year olds be potty trained by their third birthday. This expectation is based on Licensing and Health Department sanitation standards for changing and disposing of wet or soiled diapers or pullups, as well as the increased sanitation requirements due to COVID-19. Just as importantly, changing a child takes away from instructional time, as well as removing an adult from being able to interact with the rest of the children.

Since children gain bladder and bowel control at varying ages and stages of development, some 2 ½ year olds may not be fully toilet trained before the start of the school year, but we encourage families to start the process during the summer. “Getting ready for School” is great motivation to tackle this milestone now!

To foster a positive attitude, promote independence, and support their developing skills while maintaining a safe and positive classroom environment, the following guidelines have been set:

- Toilet trained is defined as the ability to use the toilet without a great deal of assistance. Wearing pull ups or requiring a great deal of adult help is not considered toilet trained.
- In order to be enrolled in the 2 ½ Year Old program a child should be in the process of potty training, In the Three Year or older programs, a child must be fully toilet trained by the start of school.
- Teachers cannot leave the classroom and take a child to the diaper changing area to handle a toileting accident, so all toileting will be managed within the classroom.
- Teachers will guide, or “talk children through”, pulling their clothes down, sitting on the toilet, cleaning themselves, redressing, flushing the toilet, and washing hands. This is usually done by being in proximity and observing at the door – not necessarily by being in the restroom with the child. If a child is having great difficulty, Teachers will assist them by breaking the task into more manageable steps.
- Children are expected wipe themselves. A Teacher will assist only if a child is having difficulty. Parents are encouraged to be patient and understanding while their child masters their “technique”.
- Since the children are gaining independence and mastering their self-help skills, the Teacher will focus on encouraging them to try their best. In the beginning, “their best” may not be quite perfect, so we ask your patience and understanding as we work to build the children’s proficiency and self-confidence. (again, if a child is very soiled, the Teacher will step in to assist, and will follow Universal Precaution Guidelines)
- If a child has an accident, they will be guided through changing, sitting on the toilet, redressing, flushing and hand washing; soiled or wet clothes will be sent home in a plastic bag.
- If toileting accidents or other related issues become disruptive or unsanitary Teachers, Parents and the Director will meet to determine strategies to address the situation

To encourage toileting success, Discovery School's policy is:

- Children should be dressed in loose fitting, easily managed clothing – (elastic pants instead of snaps and zippers; socks instead of tights; two-piece outfits instead of overalls)
- Children are encouraged to go to the bathroom upon arrival in the morning
- Children are free to go to the restroom at any time
- Throughout the day Teachers will remind children to use the restroom and will be aware of telltale signs of needing to go to the bathroom – “the Potty dance”, flatulence, reluctance to sit, or restlessness.
- Teachers will encourage toileting after snack, before transitioning to a resource or outside play, prior to going home or to Lunch and Extended Day.
- If a child says “No” when asked to go to the restroom, the Teacher may respond “Ok, but I’m going to remind you in 5 minutes, and then you need to sit on the potty and try.” or “Let’s go try. Your toy (friend, activity) will be waiting for you when you finish.” In the first scenario, within 5 minutes, the Teacher will come back, and say “It’s been 5 minutes, it’s time to go and sit on the potty.” Children will be encouraged to sit on the toilet for a short time (1-5 minutes), but will not be forced to stay on the toilet if they are ready to get up.
- Teachers will be near the restroom to guide children through each step in the toileting process and to be able to monitor if a child needs their assistance
- To monitor and assist the children, the bathroom door will be left open at all times.
- If a child has an accident, the Teacher will guide the child as much as necessary to change, clean, redress and wash hands independently. Wet or soiled clothes will be placed in a plastic bag, tightly closed, and sent home.
- Teachers will praise successes, encourage trying your best, and congratulate a child for “being a big kid”. There will be no recrimination, criticism, or punishment for an accident.
- Children’s toileting (frequency, appearance, and/or amount) will only be recorded and reported to parents in special circumstances
- The Director will be notified if a classroom area needs to be sanitized due to an accident
- When assisting a child with toileting Universal Precautions for bodily fluids will be followed:
Wear latex gloves when handling these fluids. Latex gloves can be found in First Aid kits in each room, on the playground and in the First Aid cabinet. When cleaning spills of bodily fluids, use bleach solution.